

10 August 1934
Rudingshain

Life Narrative of a National Socialist

ENTRY INTO WRITING CONTEST FOR NSDAP PARTY MEMBERS



by Karl Keil

I was born on 9.11.1899 as the son of the farmer Heinrich Keil the Tenth in Rudingshain. I was baptized as a Protestant and was later confirmed after attending eight years of elementary school and then advanced training school in Rudingshain. I wanted to learn the blacksmith's trade, but due to the outbreak of World War I had to end my apprenticeship prematurely and take my father's place, who was called up for military service, on my parents' farm.

From the fall of 1914 to the spring of 1915, I was a member of the youth army (military training for young people). I continued to work on my parents' farm until I too was called up for military service in May 1918, to the 2nd Guards Regiment Berlin.

After serving in various formations, I was discharged in April 1919. In addition to my civilian occupation, I was also active in the Landjugendbund, a political sub-organization of the Farmers' Union. However, this activity could not satisfy me, as the ideas cultivated here did not correspond to my social sensibilities, so I left again.

My search for a political direction, or party, that suited my feelings was initially unsuccessful. When, in 1923, the daily newspapers reported that a man named Adolf Hitler, with a small group of men, had wanted to abolish the Red regime in Munich with fervent, fanatical nationalism and restore the honor of Germany and the German people, this news had the effect of an electric spark in me. Full of inner excitement and fervent zeal, I followed all political events in Germany since that time. **I became more and more certain that a man had risen from the dead who was called to lead the fatherland towards a better future. Instinctively and with a feeling of certainty, I became convinced that this movement, which was still small at the time, should be supported by all means.** Based on this realization, I never missed an opportunity to get in touch with the Adolf Hitler movement. I was encouraged in my efforts by the actions of my loyal friend, Mr. Heinrich Straub in Schotten. **At a time when we were still among the outlaws, when it was still a disgrace in the eyes of many people to be a National Socialist, we took scorn and ridicule upon ourselves and committed ourselves to Adolf Hitler's idea.** Since 1929, I have been actively involved in all the events of the party, putting up posters, attending meetings, etc.

I was accepted into the party in February 1931. Since then, I have held the responsible office of political leader in my home community of Rudingshain, which I intend to continue to carry out conscientiously and responsibly in loyalty to the Führer.

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Rudingshain